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Message Text

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53
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DHA-02 SY-05 USSS-00 /054 W
---------- 116921
R 171340Z FEB 76
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7721
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AFSP, PINS, IS, JO
SUBJECT: DETAINED FSL ABU-HARTHIA

REFS: JERUSALEM 208, 213; TEL AVIV 1131

1. IN SPITE OF PREVIOUS DENIAL BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES OF REQUEST FOR CONGEN ACCESS, SENIOR FSL ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEE NESNAS WAS PERMITTED ACCOMPANY MRS. ABU-HARTHIA DURING FEB 15 VISIT AT MILITARY PRISON IN HEBRON. PRIOR TO MEETING, ISRAELI CIVILIAN CAUTIONED VISITORS AGAINST INQUIRING AS TO REASONS FOR DETENTION, INTERROGATION, TESTIMONY, OR TREATMENT. MILITARY AUTHORITIES DID PERMIT SUBJECT TO SIGN DOCUMENTS RELATING TO SURGERY OF HIS DAUGHTER IN ISRAELI HOSPITAL.

2. ACCORDING TO NESNAS, SUBJECT APPEARED PHYSICALLY EXHAUSTED BUT RESPONDED NORMALLY DURING GENERAL CONVERSATION. NEAR END OF INTERVIEW, SUBJECT'S YOUNGER SON WAS ALSO PERMITTED TO SEE HIS FATHER FOR A FEW MINUTES. WHEN KISSING HIS WIFE ON DEPARTURE, ABU-HARTHIA WHISPERED "DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. I AM NOT MIXED UP IN ANYTHING WHATSOEVER".

3. PRIOR TO ABOVE INTERVIEW, ISRAELI CIVILIAN ASKED MRS. ABU-HARTHIA IN ARABIC "HOW IS YOUR SON, SAMIR". SHE
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REPLIED, "HE IS DOING FINE".

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4. FEBRUARY 15 MEETING TOGETHER WITH EARLIER INDICIATIONS ABU-HARTHIA MIGHT BE RELEASED REINFORCES IN OUR MIND POSSIBILITY THAT FOCUS OF INVESTIGATION IS TIES HIS SON SAMIR MAY BE SUSPECTED OF HAVING HAD EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER HIS DEPARTURE FOR THE U.S. FOR REASONS OUTLINED PAR 4 JERUSALEM 208 BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR RELEASE OR FOR DETAILS AS TO WHY ABU-HARTHIS DETAINED AND FOR ACCESS BY OFFICIAL AMERICAN PERSONNEL TO HEAR HIS VERSION. SUBJECT HAS NOW BEEN HELD FOR EIGHT DAYS BY ISRAELI MILITARY AUTHORITIES AND NOTHING MORE THAN GENERALIZED ALLEGATIONS IN TEL AVIV 1131 HAVE BEEN FURNISHED.

5. DETAINED FSL IS IBRAHIM ABU-HARTHIA BORN BATTIR (NEAR BETHLEHEM), JUNE 16, 1926, JORDANIAN NATIONALITY. SON IS SAMIR IBRAHIM SALEH, AKA ABU-HARTHIA. BORN AMMAN APRIL 22, 1955. HE WAS ISSUED B-2 VISA IN JERUSALEM NOVEMBER 1974 AND HIS CURRENT ADDRESS IS 38 POPLAR AVENUE, HACKENSACK, NEW JRUSEY 07601.
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